

**COLORADO  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
PLAN OF ORGANIZATION  
AND RULES**

AMENDED 12\_09\_2017



**COLORADO  
DEMOCRATS**

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# **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND THE RULES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF COLORADO**

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the Democrats of the State of Colorado, do establish this Plan of Organization and the Rules of the Democratic Party of Colorado (the Rules) in order to: elect Democrats to public office; enhance an understanding of the political process and of the Democratic Party among our members; provide an effective and representative party organization; sustain the human and constitutional rights of all persons; provide a mechanism for making our political institutions responsive and accountable to the aims and needs of our Citizens; promote individual freedom in the framework of a just society and political freedom in the framework of a meaningful participation by all citizens.

Note: The Rules are divided into parts, designated PART ONE, PART TWO, etc. Within each part are articles designated with Roman numerals, as ARTICLE I, ARTICLE II, etc. Within an article, the texts designated with capital letters, as A, B, C, etc. are Sections, and the texts designated with Arabic numbers, as 1, 2, 3, etc. are Paragraphs. Indented text with lower case letters, as a, b, c, etc. are subparagraphs. Some of the subparagraphs have further indentations with lowercase i, ii, iii, etc., but these are to be referred to as part of the subparagraph number, as Subparagraph b, ii. Thus a particular rule could be found at PART FOUR, ARTICLE III, Section C, Paragraph 3, Subparagraph e, iii.

## **PART ONE - PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES**

### **ARTICLE I NAME**

- A. The Name. The name of the organization shall be the Democratic Party of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as the Party.
- B. Use of Party Name. No person, groups of persons, or organization shall use the name or address of a political party, in any manner, unless the person, groups of persons, or organization has received permission to use the name or address from the executive committee of the political party. The chair of the state central committee may, on the Chair's own motion, take cognizance of any contest or dispute over the use of the party name, or any attempted use of the party name, or the use of the word "Democratic" by any assembly, voter, or set of voters, which, in the chair's judgment, may not be entitled to it. The chair may take such action, as the Chair deems necessary to resolve disputes concerning the use of the party name and shall, make a report of such disputes and actions at the next meeting of the state central committee. C.R.S. 1-3-108
- C. Party Endorsements. The use of the word "Democratic" shall not be used in any endorsement of any candidate or issue in an election without permission, in writing, from the State Chair. The various statewide organizations using the party name shall not make a public endorsement of a candidate or issue in any election giving the impression that the Democratic Party is the endorsing organization. The endorsement of a candidate(s) in a partisan or non-partisan election by any official organization, i.e. County, Representative or Senate Central Committee, using the Democratic Party name shall not occur, including the endorsement of one Democratic candidate over another, except through the action of a Central Committee or in accordance with the official nomination and assembly procedures.

If an official Democratic organization provides party information to a Democratic candidate for election, this same information should be made available to other Democratic candidates in the same election.

Any organization that violates this section of the Rules shall be barred from further use of the party name in the name of their organization. Any person responsible for violations under this Section of the Rules shall be barred from holding any party office for a period of two years from the date of the violation.

### **ARTICLE II AUTHORITY**

From the time of its convening until the time of its final adjournment, the state assembly shall exercise all powers given to the party. The state assembly shall be the "convention"

mentioned in Colorado Law as the body with “final authority” to govern and pass upon controversies of the Party. At all other times the governing body of the party shall be the state central committee, with full powers of the state assembly. The state executive committee shall, between meetings of the state central committee, exercise powers as delegated to it by the state central committee and these rules. The state chair shall carry out the mandate of the state central and/or the state executive committee. C.R.S. 1-3-105, C.R.S. 1-3-106

### **ARTICLE III      PRINCIPLES**

- A. Affirmative Action Outreach. In order to create full participation by all Democrats in the party, the Party shall adopt and implement affirmative action programs with specific goals and timetables for achieving results. The Party values the participation of all its diverse members and recognizes that diversity is our strength as Democrats. All members of the Party shall take reasonable steps to foster participation at all levels of the Party and in all Party affairs of traditionally under-represented groups, such as ethnic, racial minorities, women, youth, poor, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and differently-abled in such numbers as nearly as practicable.
1. Goal. The goal of such affirmative action shall be to create such participation in delegate election processes and in party organizations at all levels of the aforementioned groups as indicated by their presence in the Democratic electorate.
  2. Quotas. This goal shall not be accomplished either directly or indirectly by the party's imposition of mandatory quotas at any level of the delegate selection process or in any other party affairs.
  3. Equal Division. The concept of equal division between delegates or committee persons based upon gender shall not be used as a mandatory quota. Rather, equal division and the actions to support it are the practical implementation of valuing diversity and assuring the largest pool of ideas, people and solutions to further Party goals.
  4. Administration and Enforcement. The State Outreach Commission shall administer and enforce the state affirmative action/outreach plan. [See [Part Two, Article III, section M, paragraph 1](#)]
- B. Non-Discrimination. Discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, color, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status or presumed ability in the conduct of the party activities at all levels of the party is prohibited.
- C. Party Membership. The Party shall be open to all who desire to support the Party,

who wish to be known as Democrats and who are not members of any other political Party. The forms of participation are subject to state statutes and these Rules.

- D. Open Meetings. All meetings at all levels of the Party are open.
- E. Fair Reflection. Delegates and alternates to all Party assemblies and conventions shall be chosen in a manner which fairly reflects the division of candidate preference, including uncommitted, expressed by those participating in the nominating process including the representation of minority and divergent views.
- F. Ethical Standards. The Party shall encourage and support codes of political ethics that embody substantive rules of ethical guidance for public officials and employees, candidates for public office, and party officials. All candidates for the Party nomination for any office shall sign a Fair Campaign Practices Code affirmation which shall be submitted with the candidate's letter of intent to pursue the Party nomination. Failure to submit a signed document shall be reported to the appropriate assembly or convention prior to the vote on the candidate's nomination.
- G. Reference to Gender. All written documents issued from the Party shall be worded in such fashion as to eliminate the presumption of any one gender in either speaker or listener, or one acting or one listening. All members of the Party will strive to eliminate gender-charged language from oral communication.
- H. Assessments. No delegate to any assembly or convention, nor any candidate for Party or public office shall be required to pay any assessment or to make a financial contribution as a condition of becoming or serving as a delegate or office holder.

## **ARTICLE IV        POLICIES**

- A. The state chair shall be responsible for informing members of the state central committee and the news media of resolutions and recommendations of the appointments committee, the legislation committee, the resolutions committee, and the platform committee.
- B. The chair shall convene periodic meetings with the Democratic leaders of the Colorado general assembly and with the Democratic members of the Colorado congressional delegation in order to translate the views of the Party on substantive issues into public policy and to inspire and mobilize vigorous public and Party support of all major legislation which implements the Party platform and process, and to challenge or expose the errors or inadequacies of any Republican elected official on the state or national level.

- C. The committees which will develop and propose the policies and platforms of the Party shall be the:
1. Resolutions Committee of the State Central Committee. [See [Part Two, Article III, section M, paragraph 4](#)]
  2. Platform Committee of the State Assembly. [See [Part Three, Article V, section C](#)]
  3. Appointments Committee of the State Central Committee. [See [Part Two, Article III, section M, paragraph 5](#)]
  4. Legislation Committee of the State Central Committee [See [Part Two, Article III, section M, paragraph 6](#)]

## **PART TWO**

### **CENTRAL COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

#### **ARTICLE I POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF THE STATE**

For the purpose of internal organization the Colorado Democratic Party shall be divided into the following levels: the State as a whole, Counties, Congressional Districts, Judicial Districts, State Senatorial and State Representative Districts, precincts and election districts (each of which shall be geographically the same as such political units now or hereafter established by law).

#### **ARTICLE II STATEWIDE INITIATIVES**

An Initiative is a group of registered Democrats whose members join together to organize their respective communities into the Colorado Democratic Party for activities, goals and purposes consistent with the overall activities, goals and purposes of the Colorado Democratic Party.

- A. Recognition Procedure. An application to establish an Initiative is submitted to the state central committee for official recognition. The state chair may grant provisional status to an Initiative subject to action by the state central committee at its next meeting.
  1. Application. A proposed Initiative may submit a petition signed by a minimum of 25 current members of the state central committee. Such petition shall be submitted at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the state central committee at which it is considered. A proposed Initiative may submit no more than two application petitions for recognition within any two-year period between biennial reorganization meetings.
  2. Supporting Documents. Each application petition must be accompanied by the supporting documents.
    - a. A current roster showing at least 25 registered Democrats residing in Colorado are enrolled as members.
    - b. Either adopted by-laws or proposed by-laws that include the following:
      - i. A requirement that members be registered as Democrats.
      - ii. A statement of purpose of the Initiative to elect Democrats and to strengthen the Colorado Democratic Party.



- iii. The by-laws shall not conflict with, or be in contradiction to, the rules and by-laws of the Colorado Democratic Party or of the Democratic National Committee.
  - iv. As a subsidiary unit of the Colorado Democratic Party, the Initiative will be governed by the rules and by-laws of the Colorado Democratic Party as well as its own by-laws.
  - v. The Initiative will operate within the state and federal campaign regulations applicable to the Colorado Democratic Party.
  - vi. The Initiative will not separately endorse any candidate for public office. Such endorsement is the responsibility of the state central committee.
  - vii. The Initiative will not provide support to candidates other than members of the Democratic Party.
1. State Committee Membership. Upon a vote of the state central committee recognizing the Initiative, the chair of the Initiative, or the Chair's representative shall be a member of the State Central Committee, State Executive Committee and State Outreach Commission with one vote on each committee.
- B. Revocation. Recognized Initiative status may be revoked by a vote of the state central committee for reasons including, but not limited to, failure to comply with the rules and by-laws of the Colorado Democratic Party
- C. Benefits of Recognized Initiative Status. At such time as an Initiative is officially recognized as an Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, the Initiative shall be entitled to further normal benefits:
1. Posting of meeting announcements on the Colorado Democratic Party website.
  2. Meeting time, meeting space and tabling at state central committee meetings at no charge to the Initiative where space is available or provided at no charge to other Democratic organizations.
  3. Opportunity to report from the floor at state central committee meetings.
  4. Initiatives may collect dues for membership purposes.
  5. Although an Initiative may identify itself as an Initiative recognized by the Colorado Democratic Party, such recognition shall in no way entitle an Initiative to speak on behalf of the Colorado Democratic Party as a whole, and the Initiative shall take care that no such impression is given in activities or statements.

- D. Financial Diligence. The Initiative is a unit of the Colorado Democratic Party, therefore, financial records and custody of funds shall be with the state party treasurer or state party staff in compliance with federal and state reporting regulations. The Colorado Democratic Party will not use the Initiative's funds without the written authorization of the chair of the Initiative in a manner established by mutual agreement. Any county Initiative must report all income and expenses as part of the required county party finance reports.

### **ARTICLE III      STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

#### A. Composition.

1. The state central committee shall be composed of the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, and the treasurer and such other officers as the state central committee shall from time to time authorize. of the state party; the chair and vice chair of the county committees, together with the Democratic United States Senators, Representatives in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, members of the State Board of Education, members of the Board of Regents, District Attorneys, State Senators, State Representatives, National Committee persons, and Congressional District chairs and vice chairs. In addition, there will be a representative from each of the following organizations: Colorado Young Democrats, African-American Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, Latino Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of the Colorado Democratic Party, Democrats with Disabilities, Democratic Education Initiative, Labor Initiative, Progressive Democrats and other initiatives sanctioned by the State Central Committee.

Two additional members shall be allowed from each county for every 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast in each county for the Democratic candidate for governor or President, whichever is greater, at either of the last two general elections. The additional members shall be elected by the county central committee at its organizational meeting in a manner provided by the county central committee. [C.R.S. 1-3-102](#)

2. In order to comply with the Charter of the National Democratic Party, Article IX Section 16, the chair shall appoint such additional members to the state central committee as are necessary in order to make the membership of that body as equally divided as practicable according to gender. Public elected official members of the state central committee shall not be counted in determining the number of additional members to be appointed. Said appointments shall be made within thirty days after the State Party biennial organizational meeting. In making such appointments the chair shall take

into account the affirmative action principles of the Party [[Part One, Article III, section A](#)] and shall promote geographic distribution of these members. Should the Charter of the National Democratic Party change its provisions in this regard, this paragraph shall become invalid.

B. Term of Office

1. The term of office of members of the state central committee shall begin on the date of their election and shall be for a period of two years or until their successors shall have been elected.
2. Such members appointed by the chair to balance the sex division of the state central committee shall serve at the pleasure of the chair, provided such members may be removed by the chair only upon 30 days public notice. All such appointments shall automatically terminate at the adjournment of the next state central committee reorganization meeting held after their appointment, provided such members may not be removed by the chair within thirty days prior to the state biennial reorganization meeting. Removal shall require the following notice: (1) written notice to the appointee removed, and (2) notice clearly posted near the entrance to party headquarters.

- C. Organizational Meeting. Between February 15 and April 1 of odd-numbered years the incumbent chair shall call a meeting of the new state central committee. The chair shall give notice of the time and place of said meeting at least 10 days before the meeting to all persons entitled to be present. The chair shall call the meeting to order and preside until a new chair of the state central committee shall have been elected. The first order of business after the roll call shall be the election of a new chair. At the meeting there shall also be elected a first vice chair, a second vice chair, a secretary and a treasurer. Within 10 days after the organizational meeting of the state central committee, the chair and secretary shall file with the Secretary of State of Colorado a full and complete roll of the membership of the state central committee, together with the addresses of the officers elected. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(d\) \(2\) \(b\)](#)

D. Duties and Powers

1. Authority. The state central committee shall have all the powers from time to time reposed in it by law or by these Rules, and shall be the supreme governing body of the Party except during the sessions of the state assembly. The central committee may suspend the Rules for a specific purpose, except for removal of officers by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance.
2. Meetings. The state central committee shall meet at the call of the chair at least once a year. Upon the written request of ten percent or more of the

members of the state central committee, filed with the chair, it shall be the duty of the chair within 15 days from the receipt of such request to issue a call for a meeting of the state central committee. The date of such meeting shall be fixed by the chair not later than 30 days nor earlier than 15 days from the date of the call. The chair shall cause meetings of the state central and state executive committees to be rotated among the various sections of the state insofar as is practicable

3. Set Time and Place of Assemblies. The state central committee shall fix the time and place of the meetings of the state assemblies, and state conventions in presidential years, all in sufficient time to comply with election laws and these Rules. The state central committee may delegate its power to set the time and place for assemblies and conventions to the chair or the executive committee.
  4. Disputes. The state central committee shall decide all party disputes under its jurisdiction [See [Part Four, Article IV](#)] [C.R.S. 1-3-106 \(1\)](#)
  5. Delegate Selection Plans. The central committee shall adopt delegate selection requirements and procedures for all conventions, assemblies and conferences upon recommendation of the chair.
- E. Officers of the Central Committee. The chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the Party shall be the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the state central committee, and any other officers authorized by the state central committee. The statewide party officers will be elected at the organizational meeting of the state central committee held between February 15 and April 1 of odd numbered years. Candidates seeking statewide party offices shall provide written notice to the State Party Chair and Secretary of their intent to seek office 21 days prior to the organizational meeting which will be held to elect such officers. Candidate information shall be made available to members of the State Central Committee, via the State Party web site or other appropriate media. Notwithstanding this rule, nominations for a statewide party office shall be accepted from the floor at the time of the elections at the organizational meeting.
1. Chair
    - a. Duties. The chair shall be the chief executive officer of the state Party, and a member of the Democratic National Committee pursuant to its rules. The chair, after consultation with the first vice chair, may appoint an executive director and a finance director subject to confirmation by the executive committee. The chair may appoint other personnel to manage the business and financial affairs of the Party subject to confirmation by the executive committee. The chair shall have financial authority to

- administer the budget as approved by the executive committee: the chair may provide for employment of any office personnel deemed necessary.
- b. Meetings and Call. The chair shall issue the call to all state central and executive committee meetings. There shall be at least two executive committee meetings and at least one state central committee meeting in each calendar year. The chair shall issue the call for all assemblies and conventions.
  - c. Presiding Officer. The chair shall be the presiding officer of executive and central committee meetings and a member of all committees within the party. The chair shall have the deciding vote in executive and state central committees in the event of a tie vote and shall not otherwise vote at any meeting of the state central or executive committees.
  - d. Campaigns. The chair, with the advice of the executive committee, shall oversee all state campaigns.
2. First Vice Chair. The first vice chair shall do everything necessary to assist the chair in carrying out the duties of the chair. In addition, the first vice chair shall provide leadership for organizational activities and for political education. In the absence of the chair, the first vice chair shall preside over all meetings and exercise all authority of the chair. The first vice chair shall be of the opposite sex of the chair, and shall be the member of the Democratic National Committee, pursuant to the rules of the DNC.
  3. Second Vice Chair. The second vice chair shall do everything necessary to assist the chair in carrying out the duties of the chair. In the absence of the chair and first vice chair, the second vice chair shall preside over all meetings and exercise all authority of the chair.
  4. Secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the state central committee and state executive committee. The secretary shall keep all records sent to the state central committee by the county, district and precinct committees. The secretary shall keep copies of the minutes supplied by any other committees of the state central committee. The secretary shall be responsible for keeping the official list of the membership of the committees of the party. The secretary shall perform such duties as requested by the chair of the state central committee, as well as such other duties as are usually associated with the office of the secretary. State headquarters staff shall assist the secretary.
  5. Treasurer. The treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Party and shall render written accounts of receipts and disbursements to each meeting of the state central and executive committees. The treasurer shall also make a full report for the handling of Party funds and shall be under sufficient bond, the

amount to be determined by the executive committee. An audit by a certified public accountant of all financial records and transactions of the Party shall be made at least once every two years, and at other times as may be requested by either the state central committee or executive committee. The treasurer shall prepare and file all financial reports as required by law.

- F. Membership on the Central Committee. Membership on the central committee is not a necessary qualification to serve on any executive committee, or as an officer of any committee or, as a lawful appointee to the central committee, although executive committee members, officers and appointees may serve as members on a central committee by virtue of their offices, if so provided, or by election. The chair of a central committee shall vote on matters before the committee only in case of a tie.
- G. Member Removal. Any member of the state central committee who shall fail to attend in person, or by substitution, three successive meetings of the state central committee when properly notified thereof may be dropped from membership unless a satisfactory excuse shall be submitted in writing and accepted by a majority vote of the committee. When a member has failed to attend three successive meetings of the state central committee without being excused, the chair may recommend to the state central committee that the member be dropped and such seat declared vacant. If the central committee concurs by a majority vote, the seat shall be vacant. [To fill a vacancy, see [Part Two, Article III, section P, paragraph 1](#)]
- H. Executive Committee of the State Central Committee. The executive committee shall consist of the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, the treasurer of the state party, and any other officers authorized by the state central committee, national committee persons, the congressional districts chairs and vice chairs, and members from counties and groups of counties whose representation shall be based on the vote cast in that county for the party's candidate for president or governor in the last preceding general election. In addition, there will be a representative from each of the following organizations: Colorado Young Democrats, African-American Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, Latino Initiative of the Colorado Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of the Colorado Democratic Party, Democrats with Disabilities, Democratic Education Initiative, Labor Initiative, Progressive Democrats and other initiatives sanctioned by the State Central Committee. [C.R.S. 1-3-105 \(2\)](#)
  - 1. Counties shall be entitled to one vote for each 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast for the Democratic candidate for governor or president at either of the last two general elections, whichever number is greater, except that counties entitled to only one vote shall be allowed two votes and shall be

represented by their county chairs and vice chairs or their authorized representatives.

2. A county entitled to more than two votes shall be represented by the chair and vice chair or their authorized representatives, each casting one vote and by additional members who shall be elected by the county's members of the state central committee or by the county central committee at or before the biennial organizational meeting of the state central committee.
3. Counties which cast fewer than 5,001 votes for the party's candidate for president or governor as determined in [Section H.1](#) of this Article shall be divided into six groups of counties: the southwest region, the southeast region, the central region, the south central region, the northeast region, and the northwest region. Groups of counties shall be entitled to one vote for each 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof using the formula for each county set for in [Section H.1](#) of this Article, except that groups of counties entitled to only one vote shall be allowed two votes. Members and alternates of the state executive committee from those counties shall be elected by the members of the state central committee from those counties at the biennial organizational meeting of the state central committee.
4. Apportionment of votes to the counties as well as determination of groupings of counties as set forth in [Section H.3](#) of this Article, with each grouping of counties having 10,000 votes or major portion thereof, shall be acted on by the state central committee at the biennial organizational meeting.
5. Honorary Members. The state chair may appoint honorary, non-voting members to the executive committee with the concurrence of the executive committee.
6. At-Large Members. The state chair may appoint a maximum of six voting at-large members of the executive committee.
- I. Term of Office. The term of office of the members of the executive committee shall be concurrent with the terms of the members of the state central committee.
- J. Duties and Powers. The executive committee shall advise the state chair and it shall exercise such other duties as may be conferred on it by law, by these rules, and as may be delegated to it by the central committee. The members of the executive committee shall advise and assist the county organizations, shall coordinate activities between the state organization and the county organizations and shall act in such capacity and in such matters as may be requested by the chair.
- K. Officers. The chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the state central committee shall be the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the executive committee.

- L. State Executive Committee Member Removal. Any member of the executive committee who fails to attend in person, or by substitution, three successive meetings of the state executive committee when properly notified thereof may be dropped from membership unless a satisfactory excuse shall be submitted in writing and accepted by a majority vote of the committee. When a member has failed to attend three successive meetings of the state executive committee without being excused, the chair may recommend to the executive committee that the member be dropped and the member's seat declared vacant. If the executive committee concurs by majority vote, the seat shall be vacant. [To fill vacancy, see [Part Two, Article III, section P, paragraph 2](#)]
- M. Affiliated Committees of the Central Committee
1. State Outreach Commission
    - a. Membership. The State Outreach Commission shall be composed of voting members selected as follows:
      - i. Three members from each of the congressional districts, elected at the biennial organizational meeting of the respective congressional district central committee. In such election, due consideration shall be given to the geographical composition of the congressional district.
      - ii. Eight members, four appointed by the chair and two appointed by each vice chair. Such appointments shall be made within 30 days after the last congressional district committee biennial organizational meeting. These appointments shall assure equitable composition of SOC and shall insure representation thereon of geographically and traditionally under-represented groups. A representative from each initiative sanctioned by the state central committee shall be a member.
      - iii. The chair shall appoint the director of SOC, with the consultation of the vice chairs and the approval of the executive committee. The director of SOC shall be the presiding officer of the commission.
      - iv. The first meeting of SOC shall take place within 30 days of the selection of its members.
    - b. Duties
      - i. Establish a state model affirmative action/outreach plan to be used as a guideline for all county plans and to be used by the Party.
      - ii. Monitor the state and all county plans to insure compliance with affirmative action/outreach plans. If the state or county is not in compliance, SOC shall notify the appropriate chair in writing, setting forth in detail the basis for the SOC conclusions, and the chair shall



have 30 days from the date of receipt of such notification to submit a corrective affirmative action/outreach plan to SOC or to remedy the noncompliance, with written notice thereof to SOC.

- iii. If the state or county does not write or does not comply with its own affirmative action/outreach plan, SOC shall:
  - (1), mandate the use of the model state affirmative action/outreach plan; or
  - (2), write a separate affirmative action/outreach plan and enforce it within the jurisdiction.
- iv. Maintain copies of all affirmative action/outreach plans and record their compliance. This information shall be on file at state headquarters.
- v. SOC may determine in what, if any, additional languages party literature should be distributed within the state or county.
- c. Enforcement of Affirmative Action/Outreach Plans. If a county is not in compliance, SOC has the following options:
  - i. During even-numbered years SOC may recommend that a county's credentials be withheld at assemblies and conventions. Such recommendation shall be made to the credentials committee of the state assembly.
  - ii. In other years, SOC may recommend that a county delegation not be seated on any committee of the Party, including but not limited to: state central committee, executive committee, rules, voter registration or any other standing or special committees. Such recommendation would be made to the respective committee for a vote to determine if the delegation should be seated.
  - iii. Removal of any or all county officers.
  - iv. Such other action as the state central committee shall deem appropriate.
  - d. Responsibilities of the State Outreach Director. The state outreach director shall serve as the executive director of the commission. The director shall be responsible to the state central and executive committees for reports on county compliance with affirmative action/outreach. The director shall have the authority, when the commission is not in session, to promote and enforce affirmative action/outreach within the state. This may be accomplished by use of subcommittees where necessary.

2. Rules Committee. The chair shall, within 10 days after election, appoint a standing committee on rules. All proposed amendments to these Rules shall be submitted to this committee for review at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the state central committee at which the proposed amendment is to be considered. All such proposed amendments must also be submitted to the state central committee members at least 10 days before the meeting at which the amendments are to be considered. [See [Part Four, Article VII](#)]
3. Finance Committee. The state chair shall appoint a finance committee and finance chair that shall be responsible for the formulation of a state party budget prior to December 1st of each year. The Treasurer shall be a member of the finance committee.
  - a. Budget. The state chair shall submit to the state executive committee the proposed budget, which shall be approved with any adoptive amendments on or before December 15th of each year. The budget shall be for Party's fiscal year, which shall be the same as the calendar year. Copies of the budget shall, immediately after approval, be sent to all county chairs and vice chairs. The chair's salary shall be broken out as a separate line item in the budget and any changes during a budget year shall be approved by the executive committee.
  - b. Assessments. The State Executive Committee shall set the total of the county assessments to the State Party at the time of approval of the annual budget. Unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee the number of delegates to the last preceding state assembly shall apportion these assessments among the counties. County assessments set by the State Executive Committee shall also be sent to each county chair, county vice chair and treasurer.
  - c. Funds. All State Party funds shall be deposited in Party accounts in either licensed state or national banks or credit unions. The Party officers permitted to draw on such party accounts shall be bonded with corporate surety in such reasonable amounts as may be determined by the state chair, with the approval of the state executive committee.
4. Resolutions Committee. The chair may appoint the membership of a standing resolutions committee of the Party for the purpose of reviewing and recommending the adoption of any resolutions by the state central or executive committees during times when the state assembly is not in session, as provided in (a) below.
  - a. Membership. The standing resolutions committee shall be composed of the following: the chair and vice chairs, the Democratic leaders of the state house and senate, all Colorado Democratic National Committee members, and one member from each congressional district to be

- appointed by the chair from the members of the platform committee of the state assembly.
- b. Meetings. The standing resolutions committee shall meet at a time and place designated by the state chair and shall consider any proposed resolutions which have been submitted to it in writing at least 30 days prior to the state central or executive committee meeting at which the proposed resolutions are to be considered.
  - c. Adoption Procedure
    - i. All proposed resolutions shall be sent along with the agenda to the members of the state central or executive committee at least 10 days prior to the meeting at which the resolutions are to be considered.
    - ii. The report and recommendations of the standing resolutions committee shall be submitted to the state central or executive committee for its consideration. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for the passage by the standing resolutions committee of any resolution. Any minority report supported by 10% of the total membership of the standing resolutions committee shall also be presented.
5. Appointments Committee. The chair shall within 10 days after election, name a standing committee on appointments. Such committee shall:
    - a. Relay timely information to county chairs prior to appointments.
    - b. Submit reports listing all Democrats applying for positions and their qualifications to persons or agencies responsible for appointments.
    - c. Prepare a report to the state central committee at the beginning of each year on the results of the party's efforts in securing appointments for Democrats.
  6. Legislation Committee. The chair shall, within 10 days after election, appoint a standing committee on legislation. The legislation committee shall propose legislation when needed, in response to the duties and policies of the Party. It shall maintain a listing of all pending legislation that is of a major concern to the Party, and keep a record of the vote by Democratic Party legislators on such items.
  7. Chair's Advisory Committee. The Chair may, within ten (10) days after election, appoint an advisory committee for the purpose of advising the Chair on various matters of concern. The composition of this committee shall be as follows: the chair, first vice chair, second vice chair, secretary, the treasurer, and any other officers authorized, of the state central committee and the county chairs of the ten (10) most populous counties (or their designated

representatives), and six (6) representatives (or their alternates) of the regions outlined in [Part Two, Article III, section H, paragraph 3](#) of these Rules. The chair may seek the advice of the committee on the following matters:

- a. The composition and expenditures of the Party budget.
  - b. The agenda for the state central and executive committee meetings.
  - c. Fundraising and other matters.
  - d. Issues brought before it by the Chair.
8. Site Selection Committee. The Chair shall, within thirty (30) days after election, name a standing committee on site selection as outlined below. The Site Selection Committee is charged with making a recommendation to the State Executive Committee for the location of the biennial state assembly.
- a. The Site Selection Committee shall consist of ten members appointed by the State Chair, of which at least one member shall be appointed from each of Colorado's Congressional Districts.
  - b. In addition to the ten members, the Chair shall appoint a Committee Chair for the Site Selection Committee, who shall vote only in case of ties on the Committee.
  - c. The Site Selection Committee shall establish rules for its operations, and shall publish and disseminate a "Request for Bids," which shall detail what items the Committee thinks important in selecting a site for the State Assembly/Convention.
  - d. The Site Selection Committee shall accept and evaluate all bids for the host site of the State Democratic Assembly/Convention, and shall present one final proposal to the State Executive Committee for the location of the State Assembly/Convention.
  - e. The State Assembly/Convention shall occur on the date and at the place selected by the Site Selection Committee, subject to the approval of the State Executive Committee, and the power to make these decisions is hereby delegated to those committees.
9. Standing Credentials Committee. The Chair shall, within thirty (30) days after election, name a standing committee on credentials and balloting as outlined below. The committee is charged with approving the credentials and presenting a list of qualified members for meetings of state central and executive committee meetings.
- a. Composition. This committee shall be appointed by the Party Chair and have one member, from each congressional district.

- b. State Convention and Assembly. All members shall be appointed by the State Chair to the state convention and assembly Credentials Committee.
  - c. Term of Service. This committee shall serve until after the biennial State Party reorganization meeting is concluded and new appointments are made by the State Chair.
  - d. Officers. The State Party Chair shall appoint a Chair from its members, and the members shall elect a Vice-Chair and Secretary.
  - e. Duties. The committee shall provide oversight and/or administer sign-ins for the Central and Executive Committee meetings. The Credentials Committee shall receive and consider all challenges to credentials, where they have oversight including resolving any contest or objection in the member selection process. This committee shall have oversight for balloting activity. The committee may establish or modify credential and balloting operational recommendations. The committee will provide a written report of its decisions to the State Party Chair, which will be made available when requested by any member of the affected body. The committee may consult with any political subdivision of the State Party.
10. Other Committees. The chair shall appoint other committees, as may be necessary from time to time, including, but not limited to, Legislative Candidates, Registration and Get Out The Vote, and Fair Campaign Practices committees.
- N. Other Jurisdictions. The chairs of the various districts and county organizations may appoint such committees as are necessary to carry out the effective organization of the Party in their districts and counties.
- O. Notice to all Officers. The officers of the Party shall be informed on a timely basis of all meetings of standing committees of the state central committee system.
- P. Vacancies. A vacancy shall be declared to exist when any incumbent shall resign, move from their jurisdiction, die, or be removed from their position.
- 1. Central Committee. A vacancy shall be filled within 30 days after its occurrence by the county central committee of the county jurisdiction where the vacancy occurred. The call shall be issued within 10 days of the occurrence of the vacancy. If the central committee made specific provisions at the reorganization meeting, an elected alternate shall automatically fill a vacancy when it occurs.
  - 2. Executive Committee. All vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the unit, which originally elected the member.

3. Chair. A vacancy shall be filled within 30 days by the state central committee on the call of the first vice chair, or in the absence of the first vice chair, by the second vice chair, or in the absence of both, by the secretary. The call shall be issued within 10 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.
4. Other Officers. A vacancy shall be filled by the executive committee as an interim appointment until the next state central committee meeting after the vacancy occurs.

## **ARTICLE IV      PRECINCT CAUCUS**

- A. Qualifications for Participation in Caucuses. In order to vote at any precinct caucus, assembly, or convention of a political party, the elector shall be a resident of the precinct for thirty days, shall have registered to vote no later than twenty-nine days before the caucus, assembly, or convention, and shall be affiliated with the Democratic party holding the caucus, assembly, or convention for at least two months as shown on the registration books of the county clerk and recorder; except that any registered elector who has attained the age of eighteen years or who has become a naturalized citizen during the two months immediately preceding the meeting may vote at any caucus, assembly, or convention even though the elector has been affiliated with the political party for less than two months. If a registered Democrat has become a resident of the county during the two months immediately preceding the precinct caucus; such affiliation with the party at said prior residence shall be counted in determining whether the person has been a registered Democrat for two months. [C.R.S. 1-3-101 \(1\)](#), [C.R.S. 1-3-101 \(2\)](#), [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(5\)](#)
- B. Call to Order. At the time and place set by the county central committee for the holding of the precinct caucuses, one of the incumbent precinct committee persons shall call the caucus to order. The committee persons shall decide which of them shall call the caucus to order by agreement or by lot. If no committee person is present, any Democratic elector eligible to vote at the caucus may call the meeting to order.
- C. Reading of Rules. The person calling the caucus to order shall read and/or distribute a clear and concise statement of precinct caucus rules, procedures and requirements for participation in precinct caucuses and in the assembly and convention processes and shall have available those copies of the statements, rules and procedures for the duration of the caucus. They shall include the appropriate sections of the principles of affirmative action and fair reflection in these Rules. [See [Part One, Article III, sections A, E](#)]

- D. Elections. The caucus shall then select a chair and a secretary and proceed to elect the allotted number of delegates to the county assembly (pursuant to [Part Three, Article II, sections D, F.](#)), and to elect two committee persons of the precinct. [See [Part Two, Article V, section B](#)]
- E. Certification. The officers of the caucus shall prepare a certified list of the names of the delegates to the county assembly and the committee persons from the precinct on the forms supplied by the county chair and shall submit them to the chair at Democratic headquarters within 24 hours after the caucuses meet.

## **ARTICLE V PRECINCT ORGANIZATION**

- A. Meetings. The first Tuesday in March in each even-numbered year shall be Precinct Caucus Day. In the Presidential election years, the state central committee may approve moving Precinct Caucus Day to the first Tuesday in February, subject to statutory changes. The state central committee shall recommend a statewide starting time for precinct caucuses; provided that the time and place of each precinct caucus shall be fixed by the county central committee or executive committee. [C.R.S. 1-3-102 \(1\)](#)
- B. Election of Precinct Committee People
  - 1. Procedure. The precinct caucuses shall elect precinct committee persons. The two persons receiving the highest numbers of votes at the precinct caucus shall be elected. If two or more candidates for precinct committee person receive an equal and the second highest number of votes, or if three or more candidates receive an equal and the highest number of votes, the election shall be determined by lot, by such candidates. [C.R.S. 1-3-102 \(2\) \(a\)](#)
  - 2. Qualifications. The precinct committee person shall be residents of their precinct for at least 30 days, and they shall be registered members of the Democratic Party for at least two months before their election.
  - 3. Certification. The officers of the precinct caucus shall certify the names of the committee persons to the county assembly.
  - 4. Disputes. The county assembly credentials committee shall determine all disputes as to the qualifications or election of any candidate for precinct committee person and shall include its findings in its report to the county assembly. The county assembly shall ratify the list of committee people. [C.R.S. 1-3-102 \(2\) \(a\)](#)
  - 5. Term of Office. The person elected at the precinct caucus shall assume the office immediately. If the committee person is successfully challenged the new committee person shall assume office immediately after certification by

the county assembly. [C.R.S. 1-3-102 \(2\) \(d\)](#)

C. Duties of Committee Persons

1. Representatives of the Party. Precinct committee people are the representatives of the party within their precincts and have the right and privilege of representing the Democrats residing within their precinct at all meetings of the county central committee held during their term of office.
2. Responsibilities. Such rights and privileges carry with them equivalent responsibilities, including the obligation of performing the following duties while holding the office:
  - a. Attend all meetings of the county central committee unless properly excused.
  - b. Recruit party workers in the precinct, supervise and direct their activities within the precinct.
  - c. Distribute and/or supervise the distribution of the literature of the party within the precinct.
  - d. Conduct and or cause to be conducted within the precinct such registration drives, fund drives and canvasses as shall be required by rule or resolution of the state central committee, the county central committee or by the duly authorized representatives of said committees.
  - e. Notify registered Democrats in the precinct of the time and place of the caucus.
  - f. Support the nominees of the party, with the exception that financial support not be required under the prohibition against assessments. [See [Part One, Article III, Section H](#)]

- D. Removal of Precinct Committee People. Failure of any precinct committee person to fulfill their responsibilities, or to perform effectively the functions of the office, shall constitute grounds for removal from such office by the county chair and the county executive committee, or county central committee, upon a 2/3 vote of such executive or central committee, unless otherwise provided by county rules.

## **ARTICLE VI COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

- A. Composition. All of the precinct committee people of the political party in the county, all of the district captains and co-captains, if any, of the political party in the county, and the county party officers, together with the elected county public officials, the state senators and representatives, the United States senators and representatives, the elected state public officials, and the district attorney, who are members of the party and who reside within the county, shall constitute the



membership of the county central committee, but multiple offices shall not entitle a person to more than one vote, excluding proxies. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(b\) \(1\)](#)

- B. Term of Office. The term of office of each member of the county central committee shall be two years. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(a\)](#)
- C. Officers/Powers and Duties. Each county central committee shall elect a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. Each county may select any other officers provided for in the county rules. Officers shall exercise powers and duties as provided in these Rules for state officers. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(c\)](#)
- D. Organization Meeting. Between the 1st day of February and the 15th day of February of odd-numbered years, the county central committee shall meet at the call of the chair. The chair shall give at least 10 days notice of the time and place of this meeting to all persons entitled to be present. The incumbent chair shall call the meeting to order and preside until a new chair shall have been elected. At the meeting, there shall be elected a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. Any Democratic elector of the county shall be eligible for election to those offices. Each county may select any other officers provided for in the county rules. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(c\)](#)
- E. Powers and Duties. The county central committee shall be the governing body of the party in each county, and shall be vested with all the power and authority of the party, except that vested in the county assembly.
- F. Removal for Absence. Any central committee member who fails to attend any two successive meetings of the county central committee, after having been given due notice of the time and place of such meeting, may be dropped from membership, unless a satisfactory excuse is provided and accepted by a majority vote of the full committee.
- G. County Executive Committee Composition. County central committees shall establish executive committees, which shall consist of the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer and such members as are provided for in this Section G. [C.R.S. 1-3-105 \(2\)](#)
  - 1. Subdivision for Election of Members. A county central committee may by resolution provide for suitable subdivision of the county into districts for purposes of administering party activities, such districts to be recognized for purposes of representation on county executive committees.
    - a. In counties so subdivided, the county executive committee shall include for each district at least one Democratic elector to be known as "Captain" and may include an additional Democratic elector to be known as "Co-Captain" who shall be elected by the precinct committee persons from each district at the biennial organizational meeting of the county central

committee.

- b. At such time as any county shall be subdivided as herein provided, the central committee shall provide for the immediate election, by the precinct committee persons from each district, of members of a newly constituted executive committee, who shall replace any theretofore selected executive committee members.
2. Counties Not Subdivided. In counties not subdivided into districts, the executive committee shall be elected by the county central committee at its organizational meeting and shall include no fewer than five Democratic electors of the county in addition to the chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer.
3. Additional Members. A county central committee may by resolution designate additional members to the county executive committee, and each county central committee may provide for additional qualifications for its executive committee members. The term of office of members of the county executive committee shall be commensurate with the term of office of county central committee officers.
4. Chair May Appoint. The chair of the county central committee may appoint no more than twelve additional county executive committee members at large who shall serve under and be responsible to the chair.

#### H. County Executive Committee Powers and Duties

1. Organization and Campaigns. The executive committee shall assist the chair in the control and management of the political campaigns of the party in the county. The executive committee members shall be responsible for the organization of the party in their respective districts, and for the registration of voters, and to act as advisors to the chair in all matters pertaining to the campaign in their respective districts. In counties containing no election districts the executive committee members shall possess such power in the management of political campaigns as may be delegated to them by the county central committee.
2. Assist Other Officers. In counties having captains and co-captains of districts, the co-captains shall assist the captain in the performance of their duties. In the absence of the captain, or their refusal or inability to act, the co-captain shall act as captain. Precinct committee persons shall be responsible to such district captains and co-captains and to the county chair and vice chair for the management of campaigns in their precinct.
3. Meetings. It shall be the duty of the chair of the central committee to call all meetings of the executive committee, and to give ample notice of the time and place of such meetings.

4. Removal for Absence. Any executive committee member who fails to attend any two successive meetings of the executive committee, after having been given due notice of the time and place of such meeting, may be dropped from membership, unless a satisfactory excuse is provided and accepted by a majority vote of the full committee.
- I. Other Jurisdictions. The chairs of the various district and county organizations may appoint such committees as are necessary to carry out the effective organization of the Party in their districts and counties.
- J. Vacancies. A vacancy shall be declared to exist when any incumbent shall resign, move from their jurisdiction, die, or be removed from their position.
  1. Central Committee. A vacancy shall be filled within thirty days of its occurrence by the remaining members of the central committee. The chair of the county central committee may be authorized to fill vacancies by proper resolution. The person selected to fill the vacancy shall be a resident of the precinct in which the vacancy occurred. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(a\)](#)
  2. Executive Committee. All vacancies of elected members shall be filled by the county central committee, if in session. If it is not in session, the county chair with the approval of the executive committee shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy who shall hold office until the next organizational meeting of the county central committee.
  3. Chair Vacancy. A vacancy in the Chair shall be filled within 30 days by the county central committee on the call of the vice chair, or in the absence of the vice chair, by the secretary. The call shall be issued within 10 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.
  4. Other Officers
    - a. Interim Appointment. A vacancy shall be filled by the county executive committee as an interim appointment until the next county central committee meeting after the vacancy occurs.
    - b. After 30 days. If vacancies in the offices for county or other central committees exist for more than 30 days, the state chair may fill the offices.
- K. Membership on the Central Committee. Membership on a central committee is not a necessary qualification to serve on an executive committee, as an officer of any central committee, or, as a lawful appointee to the central committee, although executive committee members, officers and appointees may serve as members on a central committee by virtue of their offices, if so provided, or by election. All officers of a central committee shall have a vote except that the chair shall be only allowed to vote in case of a tie.

## **ARTICLE VII      CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

A. Congressional Districts - Composition. The chair and vice chair of the several party county central committees entirely or partially within each congressional district together with the elected congressperson, the elected state board of education member of the party for the congressional district, the elected board of regents member of the party the for the congressional district, the state senators and representatives of the party, the members of the Democratic National Committee, and the officers of the congressional district, all of whom reside within the district, shall constitute the congressional central committee. If the chair or vice chair do not reside within the congressional district, they shall appoint a registered democratic elector residing within the district to serve in their stead. Two additional members shall be allowed from each county for every 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast in each county for the Democratic candidate for Governor or President of the United States, whichever number is greater, at either of the last two general elections in the county, or the portion of the county within the congressional district. If, due to redistricting and reapportionment, it is impossible to determine the votes cast in the portion of a county within the congressional district for the previous two general elections, the additional members shall be allocated based only upon the immediately preceding election, or on any fair basis approved by the state central committee.

The additional members shall reside within the congressional district and shall be elected by those members of the county central committee who reside within the congressional district at its organizational meeting in a manner provided for by the county central committee. Such additional members shall be as equally divided as possible between male and female. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(3\) \(a\), \(b\)](#)

### B. State Senatorial Districts Composition

1. In a state senatorial district that is comprised of two or more whole counties or part of one county and all or a part of one or more counties, the central committee shall be composed of its officers, the chairs, vice chairs, and secretaries of the county central committees within the district, and the Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly who reside within the district. If any of the county party officers do not reside in the district, such officers shall designate replacements who live in the district. County chairs shall provide to the chair of the district the name and contact information of the replacement for any county officer. The replacement will be considered permanent until further notice to the district chair by the county chair. One additional member, who lives in the district, shall be

allowed from each county in the district for every four thousand (4,000) votes or major fraction thereof cast for the democratic candidate (if any) for the district in the last general election where an election was held for the district. Additional members shall reside within the district and shall be elected by members of the county central committee who reside within the district at its organizational meeting, in a manner provided by the county central committee. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(5\) \(a\)](#)

2. In a state senatorial district comprised of a portion of one county the central committee shall be composed of its officers, and the chair, vice chair and secretary of the county central committee, in addition to the precinct committee persons and Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly all of whom reside in the district. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(5\) \(b\)](#)

#### C. State Representative Districts Composition

1. In a state representative district that is comprised of two or more whole counties or a part of one county and all or a part of one or more other counties, the central committee shall be comprised of its officers, the chairs, vice chairs and secretaries of the county central committees within the district and Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly who reside within the district. If any of the county party officers do not reside in the district, such officers shall designate replacements who live in the district. County chairs shall provide to the chair of the district the name and contact information of the replacement for any county officer. The replacement will be considered permanent until further notice to the district chair by the county chair. One additional member, who lives in the district, shall be allowed from each county in the district for every two thousand (2,000) votes or major fraction thereof cast for the democratic candidate (if any) for the district in the last general election where an election was held for the district. Additional members shall reside within the district and shall be elected by members of the county central committee who reside within the district at its organizational meeting, in a manner provided by the county central committee. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(6\) \(a\)](#)
2. In a state representative district comprised of a portion of one county, the central committee shall be composed of its officers and the chair, vice chair, and secretary of the county central committee, in addition to the precinct committee persons and Democratic members of the Colorado General Assembly all of whom reside in the district. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(6\) \(b\)](#)

#### D. Judicial Districts Composition

1. In districts comprised of one county or a portion of one county, the central committee shall be composed of precinct committee person, the elected Democratic district attorney, and the chair, vice chair, and secretary of the

county central committee, all of whom reside within the district. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(4\) \(d\)](#)

2. In districts comprised of more than one county the central committee shall be composed of the chairs and vice chairs of the county central committees and the elected Democratic district attorney of the judicial district. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(4\) \(a\)](#)
  3. Additional members. In districts comprised of more than one county, two additional members shall be allowed from each county for every 10,000 votes or major fraction thereof cast in each county for the Democratic candidate for governor or president, whichever number is greater, at either of the last two general elections in the county, or the portion of the county within the judicial district. Additional members shall be elected by the county central committee at its organization meeting in a manner provided by the county central committee. Such additional members shall be as equally divided as possible between male and female. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(4\) \(b\)](#)
- E. County Commissioner District Central Committee Composition. In counties which have adopted a five commissioner board or county home rule, any county commissioner central committee shall be constituted of all the precinct committee people from precincts in the county commissioner district, together with the officers selected by this central committee on the same date and in the same manner as the county central committee, the state senators and representatives and the district attorney who are Democrats and who reside within the district. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(b\) \(II\)](#)
- F. All Jurisdictions Executive Committee. Central committees in any district may elect executive committees to carry out responsibilities delegated to the executive committee by the central committee. [C.R.S. 1-3-105 \(2\)](#)
- G. Officers of Central Committees.
1. Officers. Each district central committee shall elect a chair, vice chair and secretary. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(d\), \(4\) \(e\), \(5\) \(a\), \(5\) \(b\), \(6\) \(a\), \(6\) \(b\)](#)
  2. Powers. Officers shall exercise powers and duties as provided for in these Rules for state officers. The district chair shall oversee the campaigns of nominees from their districts, except that in judicial senatorial and representative districts comprised of but one county or part of one county, the campaign shall be overseen by the county chair and county executive committee.
- H. Membership on a Central Committee. Membership on a central committee is not a necessary qualification to serve: on an executive committee; as an officer of any central committee or, as a lawful appointee to the central committee, although executive committee members, officers and appointees may serve as

members on a central committee by virtue of their offices, if so provided, or by election. All officers of a central committee shall have a vote except that the chair shall be only allowed to vote in case of a tie.

## **ARTICLE VIII     VACANCIES**

- A. Definition. A vacancy shall exist when any incumbent shall resign, move from his or her jurisdiction, die, or be removed from his or her position.
- B. Members of the Democratic National Committee. A vacancy shall be filled by the Democratic National Committee upon recommendation of the state central committee. The person recommended to fill the unexpired term shall be a Democratic elector. Notice of the meeting of the state central committee for the purpose of making the recommendation shall be in writing to each member of the committee at least one week in advance of the meeting and contain the time, purpose, and place of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX     RESIGNATIONS**

When any person who is a member of any central committee resigns before the end of the regular term of office, the resignation must be presented in writing to the chair of the committee of which the person is a member. If a chair of any central committee resigns before the end of the regular term, the resignation must be presented in writing to the state chair. A vacancy shall be declared to exist when these written notifications of resignation are accepted, and the vacancy shall then be filled in accordance with the provisions in these rules [See [Part Two, Article III, section P](#)]. When any person has made an oral statement of resignation, that person shall be requested, by a member of the appropriate central or executive committee, to submit a written statement of resignation. If a written resignation is not submitted, nor the intention to resign denied in writing within 10 days after this request, the chair shall declare a vacancy to exist.

## **ARTICLE X REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

- A. Reasons for Removal. Officers of any central committee may be removed for any of the following reasons, with cause for removal not limited to these reasons:
  - 1. Willful and intentional conduct in violation of these Rules.
  - 2. Aiding or supporting any political party other than the Democratic Party.
  - 3. Aiding or supporting any political candidate opposing a nominee of the Democratic Party.

4. Conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude.

B. Procedure for Removal

1. At least 1/4 of the members of an executive committee or 1/5 of the members of a central committee must sign and submit a written petition containing a Statement of Charges to the highest ranking central committee officer who is not named in the petition and Statement of Charges. The Statement of Charges shall contain the grounds for removal.
2. Upon receipt of the Statement of Charges, the officer in receipt shall send to the accused officer(s), by registered mail, a copy of the Statement of Charges and a letter stating that the accused officer may either resign or have a hearing, by way of motion for removal, at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the appropriate central committee, or at a meeting scheduled specifically for the hearing.
3. If the accused officer does not resign, the officer in receipt of the Statement of Charges shall send a copy of the Statement of Charges to all the members of the central committee, along with a notice of the central committee meeting. Such a meeting shall be called no later than 30 days from delivery of a request for a hearing by the accused officer.
4. At the meeting of the central committee the accused officer shall be afforded an opportunity to respond to the Statement of Charges. After such hearing, upon a motion for removal made by one of the signatories to the Statement of Charges, the accused officer shall be removed by a majority vote of the entire membership of the central committee.
5. Any officer may appeal their removal at the next meeting of the central committee. A majority vote of the entire membership of the central committee is required to reinstate the officer(s). Any reinstated officer shall resume their office at the conclusion of the voting.
6. If an officer is removed, the office shall be declared vacant and filled in the manner provided for in these rules. [See [Part Two, Article III, section P](#)]



# **PART THREE NOMINATING SYSTEM**

## **ARTICLE I POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF THE STATE**

The Party shall be divided into the following levels: the State as a whole, Counties, Congressional Districts, Judicial Districts, State Senatorial and State Representative Districts, precincts and election districts which shall be geographically the same as such political units which are now or may be established by law.

## **ARTICLE II MEETINGS OF COUNTY ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS**

### A. County Assemblies

1. Purpose. Assemblies shall be held in each even-numbered year in order to designate candidates for public office and conduct such other business as determined by these rules and the call. Candidates shall be designated for the following offices: Board of County Commissioners, County Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner, Treasurer, Surveyor, Assessor, provided an election for any such office is being held in such year. [C.R.S. 1-4-205](#), [C.R.S. 1-4-206](#), [C.R.S. 1-4-1002 \(7\)](#)
2. Fixing the Date, Time and Place. County central committees shall have the power to fix the date, time, and place for assemblies within their jurisdiction in accordance with the applicable state statutes and these rules. Central committees may delegate their powers to executive committees or to any other committees of their choosing. County assemblies shall be held no later than twenty-five days after precinct caucuses. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(1\)](#)
3. Call. It shall be the duty of the county chair to issue the call at least ten days prior to the assembly. [See [Part Four, Article I, section B, paragraph 2](#)].
4. Method of Designating Candidates. An assembly shall take no more than two ballots upon candidates for each office within the jurisdiction of the assembly to be filled at the ensuing general election. Every candidate receiving thirty (30) percent or more of the votes cast shall be certified by the presiding officer and secretary of the assembly. If no candidate receives thirty (30) percent or more of the votes, there shall be a second ballot cast on all the candidates for that office. If on the second ballot no candidate receives thirty (30) percent or more of the votes cast, the two candidates receiving the

highest number of votes shall be certified as candidates for that office by that assembly. [C.R.S. 1-4-601 \(2\)](#)

a. Tied Votes. If two or more candidates receiving designation under these provisions have received an equal number of votes, the order of certification of designation shall be determined by lot by such candidates. [C.R.S. 1-4-601 \(2\)](#)

b. Certification. The chair and secretary of the assembly shall make such certification of designation for direct primary elections and other certificates as are required by law. They shall be responsible for filing the certificates in the office of the Secretary of State or other official as required by law. [C.R.S. 1-4-601 \(2\), \(3\)](#)

5. Vacancies. [See [Part Three, Articles VII, IX](#)]

B. County Conventions. County conventions shall be held in presidential years to select delegates to other political conventions. County conventions may be held in association with assemblies. The procedure for fixing the time, date, and place for the issuance of the call for conventions shall be the same as for assemblies.

C. Qualifications for Voting [See [Part Two, Article IV, section A](#)]

D. Number of Delegates. The number of delegates to assemblies and/or conventions shall be determined by the appropriate central committee using as criteria Democratic voting strength and any other factors the central committee considers appropriate. The formula used must conform to national and state delegate and affirmative action plans. Central committees may delegate their powers to executive committees. Counties shall make the determination before precinct caucuses are held. The numbers shall be announced at the precinct caucuses. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(9\) \(a\)](#)

E. Delegate Selection. The assembly and/or convention shall consist of delegates and alternates selected by the Democratic electors at precinct caucus. The persons receiving the highest number of votes at the precinct caucus shall be the delegates to the county assembly from the precinct. If two or more candidates receive an equal number of votes for the last available place in the election of delegates to county assemblies at the precinct caucuses, the delegate shall be determined by lot by the candidates. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(1\) \(a\) \(I\)](#)

F. Nomination of Delegates. In counties, which nominate delegates to congressional district or state conventions and/or assemblies at precinct caucuses, the requirement for fair reflection [See [Part One, Article III, section E](#)] shall be enforced at the county assembly and/or convention in the process of ratifying the precinct designees. Persons nominated at the precinct caucus, as delegates to the congressional district assembly and/or convention shall declare on caucus night their candidate preferences, provided that uncommitted shall be

an acceptable preference. Such declaration shall be made in a written statement and shall be delivered to the county chair along with other caucus materials. The County chair shall total the candidate preferences of delegates nominated at the caucus level and announce such total at the beginning of the county assembly and/or convention.

The assembly and/or convention shall determine and announce the number of votes in the total county delegation, which each candidate should receive. Any at-large delegate positions shall be used to adjust the total county delegation to fulfill the requirements of fair reflection. If the at-large delegates are not sufficient to alter properly the total county delegation to the requirements of fair reflection, the following steps shall be taken by the county assembly and/or convention:

1. Candidate preferences which are represented by more than their countywide allotment shall have the voting power of some or all of their precinct delegates diminished to  $\frac{1}{2}$  votes.
2. The delegate positions which are thus gained by reducing to  $\frac{1}{2}$  votes the votes of some or all of the over-represented candidate preferences' delegates shall be apportioned among the under-represented candidate camps in accordance with the requirements of fair reflection established by the candidate preference composition of the assembly and/or convention.
3. When required by the Democratic National Committee Rules or the National Delegate Selection Plan, fair reflection shall be determined by the appropriate DNC rule or delegate selection plan. All at-large delegates who are elected to balance the requirements of candidate preference shall be chosen by the delegates of the assembly and/or convention committed to that candidate or who are uncommitted.

#### G. Certification of Delegates

1. At assemblies and/or conventions the officers of assemblies and/or conventions shall give to the chair of the central committee of the state or congressional district assembly and/or convention (whichever is appropriate), at least five days before the meeting of any state or congressional district assembly and/or convention, a certified list of the delegates to that assembly and/or convention. The roll of delegates shall be presented by the state or congressional district chair to the credentials committee of the appropriate assembly and/or convention. If the officers fail, neglect or refuse to comply, the jurisdiction shall not be entitled to have its delegates participate in the subsequent assembly and/or convention.
2. Final certification is upon a vote of a majority of the assembly and/or convention.

- H. Alternates. Any assembly, convention and/or caucus may elect an alternate for each delegate provided that not more than one alternate shall be elected for each delegate. The order of procedure for selecting alternates is established in the state delegate selection plan.
- I. Delegate Selection Plan. All procedures used for delegate selection at all levels of the party shall be in accordance with the Delegate Selection Plan adopted by the state central committee for each election year.

## **ARTICLE III        MEETINGS OF THE STATE ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS**

### **A. State Assemblies**

- 1. Purpose. Assemblies shall be held in each even-numbered year. Candidates shall be designated for the following offices (provided an election for such office is being held in such year): U.S. Senate, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, At-Large members of the University of Colorado Board of Regents, At-Large State Board of Education. [C.R.S. 1-4-502 \(1\)](#)
- 2. Fixing the Date, Time, and Place. Central committees shall have the power to fix the date, time, and place for assemblies in accordance with the applicable state statutes and these Rules. Central committees may delegate their powers to executive committees or to any other committees of their choosing. The state assembly shall be held no later than seventy-three days preceding the primary election. [C.R.S. 1-4-601 \(1\)](#)
- 3. Call. It shall be the duty of the state chair to issue the call for the assembly.

### **B. State Conventions**

- 1. Purpose. In every presidential year conventions shall be held to select delegates to other political conventions, including national conventions, to nominate presidential electors, and to elect the Democratic national committee persons allocated to Colorado. In every presidential year conventions shall be held in counties, congressional districts, and the state for the purpose of selecting delegates to the national convention. [C.R.S. 1-4-701 \(1\)](#) [See [Part Three, Article IV, section B](#)]
- 2. Procedure. Conventions may be held in association with assemblies. The procedure for fixing the time, place and date of the issuance or the call for conventions shall be the same as for assemblies.
- 3. National Committee Members. At each state convention in presidential election years the delegates shall elect the Democratic national committee

persons allocated to Colorado. Such persons shall be divided as equally as possible between men and women. The members shall serve for a term of four years beginning at the close of the Democratic National Convention of the year in which they are elected. Each person so elected must receive a majority of the votes cast. National committee persons need not be members of any central committee but may be members by virtue of their offices, if so provided, or by election.

- C. Qualifications for Voting [See [Part Two, Article IV, section A](#)]
- D. Number of Delegates. The number of delegates to assemblies and/or conventions shall be determined by the appropriate central committee using as criteria population and Democratic voting strength. The formula used must conform to national and state delegate selection and affirmative action plans. The state committee shall make the determination before precinct caucuses and the state chair shall announce the number in its call for the state assembly and convention.
- E. Delegate Selection. The assembly or convention shall consist of delegates elected by the members of county assemblies or conventions from among the members of such assemblies or conventions. Members are defined as delegates and alternates of the assemblies or conventions.
  - 1. In counties having election districts, the delegates from each such district may elect their pro-rata share of state assembly delegates by a procedure established by the county central committee. [C.R.S. 1-4-602](#)
  - 2. If authorized by the county central committee, delegates and alternates to the state and congressional district assemblies and conventions may be provisionally elected at precinct caucus, subject to the approval of the county assembly and/or convention.
- F. Certification of Delegates
  - 1. At Assemblies and Conventions the officers of assemblies and conventions shall give to the chair of the central committee of the state or congressional district, whichever is appropriate, at least three days before the meeting of any state or congressional district assembly or convention, a certified list of the delegates to that assembly and/or convention. If the officers fail, neglect or refuse to comply, the jurisdiction shall not be entitled to have its delegates participate in the subsequent assembly and/or convention.
  - 2. Final Certification is upon majority vote of the assembly and/or convention.
- G. Alternates. Any assembly, convention or caucus may elect an alternate for each delegate, provided that not more than one alternate shall be elected for each delegate. The order of procedure for selecting alternates is established in the state delegate selection plan.

- H. Delegate Selection Plan. All Procedures used for delegate selection at all levels of the party shall be in accord with the delegate selection plan adopted by the state central committee for each election year. If, in order to comply with DNC rules, the delegate selection plan for presidential election years contains provisions in conflict with these rules, the delegate selection plan shall prevail.

## **ARTICLE IV        MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

### **A. Congressional District Assemblies**

1. Purpose. Assemblies shall be held in each even-numbered year, in order to designate candidates for public office and to conduct such other business as determined by these rules and the call. Candidates shall be designated for the following offices: U.S. House of Representatives, University of Colorado Board of Regents, and the State Board of Education.
2. Fixing the Date, Time, and Place. Central committees shall have the power to fix the date, time, and place for assemblies in accordance with the applicable state statutes and these rules. Central committees may delegate their powers to executive committees or to any other committees of their choosing. Assemblies shall be held not less than 10 days after the precinct caucus and prior to the state assembly.
3. Call. It shall be the duty of the chair of the central committee to issue the call for the assembly in their jurisdiction.

### **B. Congressional District Conventions**

1. Purpose. Conventions shall be held to select delegates to other political conventions, including national conventions, to nominate presidential electors, and to nominate candidates to fill vacancies in unexpired terms in the U.S. House. In every presidential year conventions shall be held in congressional districts to select delegates to the national convention.
2. Procedures. Conventions may be held in association with assemblies. The procedure for fixing the time, date and place and for the issuance of the call for conventions shall be the same as for assemblies.
3. Presidential Electors. In each presidential year, one elector of the President and Vice President of the United States shall be nominated by each congressional district convention, and two additional electors at-large shall be nominated by the state convention. If a congressional district fails to nominate its elector, then the state convention shall nominate such elector or may determine in what manner such elector shall be nominated. The

presidential electors so nominated shall pledge to vote for the Democratic Party candidate for President and Vice President when they cast their vote at the Electoral College and shall so bind themselves with their vote and acceptance of the nomination. The certificate of nomination of said electors filed with the Secretary of State as provided by law shall contain the names of the Democratic candidates for the President and Vice President and a statement that if the electors are elected in the general election they will vote for such candidates as provided by law. [C.R.S. 1-4-502 \(2\)](#)

C. Judicial, State Senate, State Representative, District Assemblies

1. Purpose. Assemblies shall be held in all jurisdictions as required in order to designate candidates for public office and to conduct such other business as determined by these rules and the call. Candidates shall be designated for the following offices: Judicial Districts: District Attorney; State Senate District: State Senator; State Representative District: State Representative. [C.R.S. 1-4-1002 \(7\)](#)
2. Fixing the Date, Time and Place. Central committees shall have the power to fix the date, time and place for assemblies within their jurisdictions in accordance with the applicable state statutes and these rules. Central committees may delegate their powers to executive committees or to any other committees of their choosing. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(9\) \(a\)](#)
3. Call. It shall be the duty of the chair of the central committee to issue the call for the assemblies in each jurisdiction.
4. Multi-County Districts. In districts composed of one or more whole counties and a portion of one or more counties or composed of portions of two or more counties, assemblies and conventions shall be composed of Democratic electors who reside in the district, and who are selected either by precinct caucuses or by the members of Democratic county assemblies or conventions in each county in the district. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(1\)](#), [1-4-602 \(2\) \(b\)](#)
5. Single County Districts. In districts comprised of a part of one county, assemblies and conventions shall be composed of delegates to the county assembly from precincts within the district. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(2\) \(a\)](#)
6. Multi-County Representation. In districts comprised of one or more whole counties and a portion of one or more counties or comprised of portions of two or more counties, the district central committees shall adopt rules for representation at assemblies and conventions and apportion the number of delegates allocated to each county, or to each precinct, if appropriate, in the district. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(2\) \(b\)](#)
7. Reapportionment. In the first election year after boundaries are changed by statute, if the district central committee has not been organized prior to thirty

days before the date of precinct caucuses, the central committee of the county with the largest portion of the population according to the last federal census shall adopt rules for representation and apportion the number of delegates. The chair of said county after due consultation with the chairs of the other counties having precincts within the district, shall issue the call for the district assembly and preside over its meeting.

## **ARTICLE V COMMITTEES OF ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS**

### **A. Permanent Organization**

1. Duties. The permanent organization committee shall recommend to the assembly or convention an agenda and the order and time schedule of business. The committee shall submit a list of the permanent officers of the assembly or convention for action by the body. The agenda shall include the conduct of the preference poll if such a poll is required in the delegate selection plan.
2. Composition
  - a. State and Congressional. District committees shall consist of one member from each county in the jurisdiction. Counties with more than 20,000 votes at the last general election for the Democratic candidate for either governor or President of the United States shall be entitled to one additional member for each additional 20,000 votes cast, or major portion thereof.
  - b. County. Committees shall consist of one member from each election district or ward as the case may be. In counties without official election districts or wards, the membership shall consist of not fewer than 5, nor more than 15 members, no more than one of whom shall be from the same election precinct. The number of members of these committees at county conventions and assemblies shall be determined by the county party organization as it sees fit. The members so chosen shall, to the extent reasonably possible, reflect the different communities of interest within the county.
  - c. Other Districts. For other multi-county districts, the committee shall consist of at least one member from each county, and additional members may be allocated to counties based on a factor that reflects Democratic voting strength.
3. Selection
  - a. Selection of Members for Other Committees. Members of such



committees for multi-county legislative, judicial, or congressional districts and for the state shall be elected by the delegates to the county assembly or assembly and convention who reside within the district involved.

- i. A county assembly may, by separate motion, or permanent organization report, delegate to the county chair the authority to appoint members to the credentials and/or permanent organization committees of subsequent assemblies.
  - ii. Unless otherwise provided by county rules or the county assembly permanent organization report, a county chair may appoint a replacement for a credentials or permanent organization committee member who has resigned or become ineligible to serve.
- b. Selection of Members for County Committees. The county chair shall appoint the members of the county committees, each of whom shall be a resident of the county who was eligible to participate in a Democratic precinct caucus in the state.

Appointments shall be made in sufficient time for the committee to conduct its business prior to the convening of the county assembly or assembly and convention.

- c. Committee Chairs. The chairs of such committees shall be appointed by the chair of the district involved.

#### B. Credentials Committee

1. Duties. The credentials committee shall have the authority and responsibility for general direction of the credentialing and registration process for an assembly or convention, although administrative and clerical functions may be carried out by party staff or volunteers. Duties include:
  - a. Reviewing the list of delegates submitted by the chair of its central committee;
  - b. Resolving any contest or objection in the delegate selection process;
  - c. Reporting to the assembly or convention the count of delegates and alternates who have been registered and providing supplementary reports of changes in the registration roll, as needed;
  - d. Recommending the certification of delegates and seated alternates which shall become the official roll of voting members of the assembly, subject to changes through later reports.
  - e. County assembly credentials committees shall also be responsible for recommending ratification of precinct committee persons.

2. Composition. The members of the credentials committees shall be chosen in the same manner as members of the permanent organization committee. [See [Part Three, Article V, section A, paragraph 2](#)]. Additionally, the members of the standing credentials committee shall be members of the credentials committee for the state assembly and convention. None of the members of the credentials committee shall wear or display any campaign advertisements.
3. Procedure
  - a. Unchallenged delegates. When no objections are raised to the list of delegates and/or candidates for precinct offices submitted to the credentials committee, the committee shall recommend certification.
  - b. Challenges
    - i. State. Every person desiring to contest the seat of a delegate chosen by a county assembly or convention shall be required to give notice in writing of such intention, together with the grounds of the contest to the state chair and to the person whose seat is contested within ten days after the date of the county convention or assembly and at least three days before the state assembly or convention meets. Such person shall be accorded an opportunity to have his or her claim heard by the credentials committee.
    - ii. County. Every person desiring to contest or dispute the qualifications of any delegate, or the conduct or result of any precinct caucus shall file a protest with the county chair within seven days following the caucus. Such person shall be accorded an opportunity to have his or her claim heard by the credentials committee. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(3\)](#)
    - iii. Other Assemblies. Every person desiring to contest or dispute the qualifications of any delegate to any other assembly or convention shall file a protest with the chair of the district's central committee within ten days of the election of that delegate, and at least three days before the district assembly. Such person shall be accorded an opportunity to have his or her claim heard by the credentials committee. [C.R.S. 1-4-602 \(3\)](#)
    - iv. Late Challenges. By majority vote of the credentials committee, under extenuating circumstances, the committee may consider challenges filed after the established challenge period.
  - c. Resolution of Disputes
    - i. Hearing. The committee may schedule a hearing at which interested people may present their views.

- ii. Options for action. The committee may, upon determination of a valid challenge, take any one or more of the following actions:
  - (a) Deny certification to the challenged delegate or delegates;
  - (b) Require a new list from the appropriate chair;
  - (c) Reallocate votes among unchallenged delegates;
  - (d) Certify alternate delegates or delegations;
  - (e) Certify an alternate delegation;
  - (f) Allocate fractional votes; and/or
  - (g) Any other action which insures fair representation of the members of the unit from which the delegate or delegates were selected.
- iii. Report. The committee shall make its report public as soon as possible and the report shall be made public prior to the opening of the assembly or convention. This provision shall not be interpreted to require distribution of a printed or emailed copy of the credentials report to all delegates.

d. Certification of Committee Person

- i. The credentials committee of the responsible party assembly shall hear all disputes regarding the election of committee persons. [C.R.S. 1-3-102 \(2\) \(a\)](#)
- ii. The credentials committee may remove a committee person for reasons including, but not limited to, the person's not meeting the qualifications. [C.R.S. 1-3-102 \(2\) \(d\) \(I\)](#)
- iii. The credentials committee shall recommend ratification of committee persons to the county assembly.

C. Platform Committee

1. State

- a. Composition. The chair of the platform committee shall be appointed by the state party chair. Each state representative district central committee and each congressional district central committee at its organizational meeting shall designate and certify to the state chair one member to serve on the platform committee of the state assembly, such designation to be subject to change or ratification at any subsequent central committee meeting or assembly of the particular representative or congressional district held prior to deliberations of the platform committee of the state assembly. Each Initiative may appoint one member to the state Platform Committee. In addition, the incumbent Democratic statewide elected

officials, state and federal senators and representatives, together with the chair, 1st vice chair, 2nd vice chair, secretary and treasurer of the state central committee, and the national committee persons shall be members of the platform committee.

- b. Meetings. The platform committee shall meet at a time and place to be designated by the state chair as early as possible preceding the convening of the state assembly or convention for the purpose of receiving, considering and drafting resolutions for adoption. At least 60 days prior to the state assembly, the state platform committee shall be convened by the state chair for the purpose of drafting suggested resolutions for the use of the platform committee, such draft resolutions to be sent to all members of the platform committee at least 10 days prior to the state assembly or convention.
  - c. Duties. The platform committee shall consider resolutions to be reported to the state assembly. The chair of the platform committee shall transmit to the state chair a copy of all resolutions passed by the committee. The state chair shall cause them to be reproduced and submit a copy of the resolutions to the delegates and alternates with the call. Copies of the resolutions shall be furnished each delegate to the state assembly upon presentation of delegate credentials.
  - d. Adoption Procedure. The report of the state platform committee shall be submitted to the state assembly. Minority reports of the state platform committee offered by ten percent (10%) of the total membership of the committee shall be offered on a petition describing the minority report. Such minority report shall be submitted to the chair of the state resolutions committee prior to the convening of the state assembly. Debate on the resolutions at the state assembly shall consist of debate on the minority report. Amendments to the resolutions shall be made only by minority report. Resolutions adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the state assembly or convention shall be the platform of the Party.
2. Other Jurisdictions. Other jurisdictions shall provide for committees and procedures not inconsistent with those prescribed for state assemblies and conventions, when applicable.

## **ARTICLE VI            AGENDA FOR ASSEMBLIES AND CONVENTIONS**

The assembly or convention shall require a specific time for the conduct of preference polls if such poll is mandated by the delegate selection plan. This shall be a part of the report of the committee on permanent organization.

The following items must be included on the formal agenda of all assemblies and conventions, however the order of such business shall be recommended by the committee on permanent organization, subject to the approval of the assembly or convention:

1. Call to order by the chair of the central committee and reading of the call to order
2. Selection of temporary officers
3. Presentation and adoption of report of the committee on credentials
4. Recess
5. Presentation and adoption of report of the committee on permanent organization.
6. Election of permanent chair, secretary and other officers
7. Report of committee on resolutions
8. Designation of candidates for direct primary election
9. Selection of delegates to subsequent assemblies and conventions
10. Selection of credentials and permanent organization committee members to subsequent assemblies and conventions
11. Establishment of a committee to fill vacancies in nomination for public office
12. Other business
13. Adjournment

The assembly or convention may, by two thirds (2/3) vote, change or suspend the order of business at any session.

## **ARTICLE VII      VACANCIES IN THE NOMINATING SYSTEM**

- A. National Convention. An alternate vacancy, if occurring more than five days prior to the beginning of the national convention, shall be filled by the state's delegation to the national convention with a person of the same presidential preference and from the same political subdivision.
- B. Vacancy Committee. Any vacancy in designation or nomination by the party for any elective office shall be filled by a vacancy committee designated by the nominating assembly or otherwise as provided by statute. The assembly may designate the central committee of the district involved as the vacancy committee, and in multi-county districts may also include the precinct committee people of the precincts included in the district. [C.R.S. 1-4-601 \(2\)](#)

## **ARTICLE VIII      CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY**

A person shall be eligible for designation by an assembly as a candidate for nomination at a primary election, or for appointment to a vacancy in such designation, if that person has been a registered Democrat for a period of at least 12 months immediately preceding the date of the General Election next following such primary election. [C.R.S. 1-4-601 \(4\) \(a\)](#)

## **ARTICLE IX      VACANCY IN OFFICE**

Qualification. A person shall be eligible for election to fill a vacancy in office if that person has been a registered Democrat for a period of one year prior to the filling of the vacancy and shall meet the requirements for running for the office in the next general election.

# **PART FOUR**

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

### **ARTICLE I NOTICE**

The time and place for all meetings, assemblies and conventions at all levels of the party shall be publicized fully and in such a manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be held whenever possible in public places accessible to all party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.

- A. Central Committee System. All chairs of central committees when calling a meeting of the central committee or of an executive committee shall give notice of the time and place 10 days or more before the meeting to all those entitled to be present. Notice shall be a written communication sent by any reasonable means and posted for public view. Failure of intended recipients to receive the notice shall not invalidate a meeting. This provision does not apply to nominating assemblies or conventions.
- B. Nominating System.
  1. Precinct Caucus. At least 10 days before each precinct caucus the state chair shall publish in the official party newsletter, and release to the media generally, a clear and concise statement of precinct caucus rules and procedures and requirements for participation in precinct caucuses and in the assembly and convention process.
  2. Assemblies and Conventions. The call for any and all assemblies and conventions shall state the time and place with particularity and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area served by the assembly or convention at least 10 days before the date of the assembly or convention. The chair of the central committee shall provide the call to all delegates and alternates at least 10 days prior to the meeting of the assembly or convention.
  3. Candidates for Public Office. Notice of the candidacy of any person desiring to have their name presented to any assembly for designation as a candidate at any primary election shall be given to the chair of the appropriate committee at least 10 days prior to the assembly. Failure to give such notice shall bar such person from consideration by the assembly, unless a majority of the assembly waives the requirement. The chair of the appropriate committee shall make such notices of candidacy available to all interested persons and to the media.

## ARTICLE II ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

Participation in meetings held under the central committee system may be by electronic means if the officers calling the meeting make the necessary arrangements. The party is not obligated to provide for electronic attendance.

## ARTICLE III VOTING

- A. Voting. Voting shall be open at all meetings, assemblies and conventions.
1. Precinct Caucus. At precinct caucuses, voting shall be open unless a secret ballot is requested by anyone eligible to vote.
  2. Assemblies, Conventions, Central Committee System and All Other Meetings.
    - a. Voting shall be open. Ballots, if any, shall be signed or otherwise identifiably marked by the person voting to be valid. Ballots must be sealed and retained in a secure location by the Chair of the district, county or state that is voting, or that person's designee.
    - b. The state party chair may retain custody of the ballots if a valid challenge or complaint is submitted within the timeframe outlined by state party rules and upon written request by the state party chair to the chair of the district, county or state that is voting, or that person's designee.
    - c. Ballots shall be retained for a minimum of 45 days unless a challenge is timely raised, in which case the ballots are to be retained until the challenge is finally resolved.
  3. Ballots. Ballots shall not be copied, photographed or otherwise physically or electronically copied or transmitted to others. Final totals of all votes may be transmitted to others.
  4. Review. The ballots of elected party representatives may be reviewed by members of the party district that elected those party representatives. Request(s) to review a ballot shall be made in writing, within 30 days of the vote involved, to the state party chair. The state party chair shall determine, or refer the matter to a designee or a committee which shall determine, issues of standing, jurisdiction and procedure.
  5. Exhaustive Voting. Unless prohibited by law, in an election where there are more than 2 candidates, if at the end of each round of voting there is no candidate with a simple majority, the candidate with the lowest vote total shall be removed from the ballot for the next round of voting. This process shall continue until there are only 2 candidates, and one of them is declared



the winner with a simple majority. Once the voting starts for an office, no additional candidates will be added to that ballot.

B. Central Committee System. An additional vote is allowed a member who carries a proxy vote as determined herein.

C. Nominating System

1. Precinct. A precinct caucus in electing delegates to the county assembly and/or convention may provide one-half votes for those delegates only if deemed necessary for fair reflection requirements.
2. County. A county in electing delegates to state or congressional district assemblies and/or conventions may provide for one-half votes for those delegates only if deemed necessary for fair reflection requirements.
3. National Convention. Delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention may be elected at the state or congressional district conventions to delegate positions with less than a whole vote if:
  - a. The National Convention or the Democratic National Committee permits such election, and
  - b. Delegate positions with less than a whole vote are designated and made known to the convention before the election.
4. Contests. Fractional votes may be used if a credentials committee authorizes such procedure as a mechanism to resolve disputes.

D. Proxies. A proxy is an authorization, in writing, for one person to act for, and in place of, another at a meeting of a committee.

1. For the purpose of establishing a quorum, proxies shall be counted.
2. Substitutes must be Democratic electors residing in (1) the county in which a member resides or (2) the congressional district in which the member resides.
3. No person may carry more than one (1) proxy.
4. The person giving the proxy may make written instructions on how the proxy is to be voted and the instructions shall be honored.
5. An elected alternate shall in all cases have precedence in voting over a proxy holder.
6. Proxies are not ballots and must be assigned before being counted as a vote.
7. No proxy voting shall be permitted in any caucus, assembly or convention, or in any meeting related to the nominating process.
8. County party rules adopted by the county central committee may further restrict but not expand proxy voting rights. County party rules cannot

contradict any of the state party rules.

9. Unless otherwise indicated, a proxy is presumed to be general, uninstructed and transferable.
10. The holding of multiple offices shall not entitle a person to more than one vote. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(1\) \(b\) \(I\)](#)
11. State party officers, elected officials, county chairs, county vice chairs, congressional district chairs, congressional district vice chairs, DNC members, members appointed to the state central or state executive committee and state party Initiative representatives may not be replaced by an alternate.
12. County bonus members must always be replaced by an alternate from their county if an alternate is present. Even if the absent bonus member has sent an assigned and instructed proxy, an alternate will take precedence if present. If no alternates are present and the bonus member has sent in a proxy, the proxy can be voted instead as long as it is assigned to a Democrat from the bonus member's county or congressional district.

13. Central Committee System

- a. Central Committee Meetings. Members of a central committee may deputize, by signed proxy, substitutes to act for them at any meetings, except where prohibited. Such substitutes must be Democratic electors.
  - b. Executive Committee and Other Meetings. Any elected member of an executive committee or any member of any other committee may cast one vote and not more than one proxy. A proxy holder who is not a member shall vote only one proxy.
- E. If two candidates receive an equal number of votes, the election shall be determined by lot.
  - F. Alternates. Alternates are those elected to a body to serve as a member or delegate in the absence of a member or delegate. In all instances alternates take precedence over proxies and instructed ballots.
  - G. Absentees. At assemblies and conventions, the reporting unit shall count only delegates or duly designated alternates who are physically present at the time of the vote.
  - H. Reporting Unit. The reporting unit for state and congressional assemblies and conventions shall be the county. Reporting units to the counties may be election districts, state representative districts or precincts. The reporting unit shall elect a chair who shall have responsibility for keeping attendance and seating alternates.
  - I. Quorum. The quorum of a meeting of any body is the number competent to

transact business, as provided below. For the purposes of this section, “elected officials” shall mean individuals who hold a position within the Central and/or Executive Committee solely by virtue of their public (non-party) office; specifically, this shall include the President of the United States, United States Senators, Members of Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, members of the State Board of Education, members of the Board of Regents, District Attorneys, State Senators, State Representatives, and elected county public officials, where applicable.

1. Central Committee System

- a. Central Committee Meeting. Forty percent of the whole number of members shall constitute a quorum for any central committee meeting. The “whole number of members” shall not include elected officials, except that an elected official shall be included in the “whole number of members” when present, either in person or via proxy.
- b. Executive Committee. Forty percent of the whole number of members shall constitute a quorum for any executive committee meeting. The “whole number of members” shall not include elected officials, except that an elected official shall be included in the “whole number of members” when present, either in person or via proxy.
- c. Committees and Commissions. Forty percent of the whole number of members of committees or commissions formed under the authority of Part Two, Article III, section M, of these rules shall constitute a quorum for meetings of such committees or commissions.

2. Nominating System. The nominating system shall consist of all assemblies and conventions; meetings of associated standing committees including credentials, permanent organization, and platform; committees to fill a vacancy in nomination; and committees to fill a vacancy in office.

- a. Assemblies and Conventions. A majority of the elected delegates shall be a quorum for the purpose of commencing business. A majority of the delegates in attendance at the commencement of business shall be sufficient to carry on business.
- b. Nomination Committees. A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of commencing business. A majority of the members in attendance at the commencement of business shall be sufficient to carry on business.
- c. Associated Standing Committees. Standing committees, including credentials, permanent organization and platform, shall establish a quorum consisting of not less than one fifth of the voting membership of the committee.

- d. Vacancy in Office Committees. Committees to fill a vacancy in office shall establish a quorum consisting of not less than one half the voting membership of the vacancy committee. [C.R.S. 1-12-203 \(3\) \(a\)](#); [1-12-206 \(1\)](#)
  3. Precinct Caucus. The quorum at a precinct caucus shall be the number of eligible participants present.
  4. Special Considerations. Colorado Revised Statutes or these party rules covering a specific matter of business may provide for a quorum related to that matter of business.
- J. Minority Reports. A minority report shall be presented at any meeting, assembly or convention upon a favorable vote of ten percent or more of the members or delegates of the meeting, assembly or convention.

## **ARTICLE IV      CONTROVERSIES**

### **A. Jurisdiction**

1. State Central Committee. The state central committee shall have all the powers of the state assembly in considering and deciding all controversies when the assembly is not in session or if the assembly refers the controversy to it for a decision. In any instance of conflict between state party rules and the rules of any county party, district or initiative of the party, the state party rules shall prevail. [C.R.S. 1-3-105](#), [C.R.S. 1-3-106](#)
2. State Party Chair. The chair of the state central committee shall take cognizance of any contest, complaint, dispute or controversy in any political division, or of the central or other committees or of the officers thereof. The chair shall take cognizance on the Chair's own motion, or upon a written statement or petition being filed with the chair within 30 days from the event or within 30 days when the event should have reasonably been known. Such statement or petition must be signed by the chair of the respective central committee or by fifty Democratic voters, two of whom will be members of the respective committee, and reside within the political division. The statement or petition shall state specifically the matter(s) in dispute, supporting facts and proposed resolution. The state party chair, whether acting upon the Chair's own motion or upon the statement or petition, shall within three (3) days appoint a committee to investigate the allegations and within 10 days from the date of its appointment, and the state party chair will, notify the appropriate body to convene to resolve the dispute.
3. State Assembly. When in session the state assembly shall have full power to decide all controversies concerning the regularity of the organization within

any political division, and concerning the right to the use of the Party name. This shall include controversies concerning the membership and personnel of any committee, or the officers thereof, and any nominations bearing or claiming the name or use of the word "Democratic" in any jurisdiction. [C.R.S. 1-3-106 \(2\)](#)

4. State Executive Committee. If in the opinion of the state chair any complaint needs immediate action, or is filed after the nomination of candidate, and before election, the chair may refer it to the state executive committee which may proceed upon reasonable notice to hear and resolve the complaint and make appropriate orders to the state central committee. These orders shall be binding until the next meeting of the state central committee, when, upon the application of anyone affected thereby, the central committee may affirm, modify or overrule the decision of the state executive committee.

#### B. Complaints

1. County Organizations. When a complaint is lodged with the chair of the state central committee signed by at least fifty recognized Democratic voters including at least two members of the county central or executive committees, complaining against rules, regulations or actions of any county central committee, county executive committee, or the chair and/or vice chair thereof, alleging discrimination against any portion of the organization or party in the county, or conduct unfair, unjust or detrimental to the interest of the party, the chair of the state central committee shall refer the complaint to the state assembly. If the assembly is not in session, the state chair shall call a meeting of the state central committee to hear the dispute.
2. Other Jurisdictions. Complaints against actions of officers and committees of any other political division shall be filed in the same manner as stated above for complaints against county organizations.

#### C. Procedures

1. The state chair shall give full notice to any and all parties affected by the controversy. Any and all parties to the controversy shall in all cases be notified whether the controversy shall be submitted to the state assembly, or heard by the state central committee, the state executive committee, or a committee designated by the chair. The contestee may file with the chair an answer to said charges and make counter charges within five days after receipt of such notice. The chair shall provide a copy of said answer or counter charges, as stated below, to any and all interested parties.
2. When any meeting of the state central committee or state assembly is called under this Article, the state chair shall give notice to all members of the state central committee or to the delegates to the state assembly a notice of such

meeting. This notice shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, and shall include the specifics of any controversy to come before the meeting, as well as any other business to come before the committee.

- a. If the state assembly has been called to meet within 30 days after the state chair receives a petition alleging a controversy, or acquires knowledge of a dispute, the chair shall submit the manner in dispute to the state assembly.
  - b. In all other cases the state chair shall call a meeting of the state central or executive committee, to be held within 30 days, for the purpose of hearing and determining the controversy.
3. In case of the matters being submitted to the state assembly, the assembly may appoint a committee thereof to hear the evidence of the parties to the controversy, and their witnesses, and make a report to the assembly for its action before its final adjournment. The procedure before such committee of the assembly shall be as stated in paragraph 4, below. No committee of the assembly may take final action, but must report its findings to the assembly for its final vote. The assembly may refer the matter to the state central committee, in which event the state central committee and its chair shall also proceed as stated in subsection 4, below.
4. The chair of the central committee shall preside at any meeting where controversies are heard.
- a. The chair shall appoint at any hearing a certified shorthand reporter to record the evidence and proceedings, or shall otherwise arrange for the recording of the proceedings. The chair shall also ensure that a notary is present.
  - b. All witnesses shall swear or affirm to tell the truth.
  - c. All evidence shall be taken in the presence of the committee.
  - d. Both sides of the dispute shall be allowed to introduce written or oral evidence.
  - e. Both sides to the controversy may be represented by counsel, or other individual of their choosing, who may question the witnesses and who shall be allowed to make arguments for their respective sides in the following order:
    - i. Individual for the contestee may argue their case.
    - ii. Individual for the contestee may argue their case.
    - iii. Reply of individual for the contestee.
  - f. Any members of the committee may ask questions. After the evidence has

been introduced and the arguments conclude, then both the contester and contestee and their counsel shall be excluded and the matter shall be open for discussion and determination by majority vote by the assembly, central or executive committee.

D. Enforcement

1. Complaints Against County or Other Organizations. If the complaint or a material part of it is sustained by the state assembly or state central or executive committee they shall make change orders or overrule the action complained of. Such orders shall immediately become effective.
2. Other Controversies
  - a. Committee of the State Assembly. Upon a report of a committee to the state assembly, the assembly may adopt, change, modify or disapprove the report, and make such findings and decisions as may be determined upon majority vote of the assembly. The vote of the assembly shall be final.
  - b. State Central Committee. The determination of the state central committee shall be final. Upon presentation of the decision by the chair and the state central committee and notice thereof to the contester and contestee, they shall immediately submit to the decision and take such steps as may be required by law, or by the state central committee. The state central committee shall in all cases authorize the state chair to dissolve any committee found to be illegally constituted, to remove from the office of secretary of state, or county clerk or city clerk, any nomination found to be improperly filed; and to take each and every step to make effective its decision or judgment if contester or contestee refuses to so do.

- E. Delegates to Assemblies or Conventions. Controversies involving the seating of delegates to any assembly or convention shall be resolved in accordance with the credentials section of these rules. [See [Part Three, Article V, section B](#)]

## **ARTICLE V PUBLICATION OF THE RULES**

These Rules shall be printed in English and Spanish and made available at minimal or no cost to the recipient.

## **ARTICLE VI FILING OF THE RULES**

A copy of these Rules shall be filed with the Secretary of the State of Colorado no later

than the first Monday in February in each even-numbered year and, if filed prior to that date, these Rules may be amended until that date. Failure to file by the deadline shall mean that the rules as last filed with the Secretary of State continue to apply. [C.R.S. 1-3-103 \(9\)](#)

## **ARTICLE VII      AMENDMENT TO THE RULES**

In any odd-numbered year, these Rules may be altered or amended by a majority of those voting during any state central committee meeting. In any even numbered year, these Rules may be altered or amended by a majority of those voting during any state central committee meeting held no later than the first Monday in February. A quorum must be present. Ten days prior notice of such changes must be given to the members of the committee. All proposed amendments to these Rules shall be submitted to the rules committee for review at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the central committee at which the proposed amendments are to be considered. A statutory change affecting these Rules shall automatically amend these Rules, unless within six months of the statutory change the state central committee shall act to retain the original rule of the party.

## **ARTICLE VIII      OTHER PROCEDURES**

Any procedure, which is not prescribed in or governed by these Rules, shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

## **ARTICLE IX      APPROVAL OF THE RULES**

These rules are amended on this 9th day of December, 2017, by the Colorado Democratic State Party Central Committee